

Tower Grove Park South Gate
(Arsenal Street Gate)
Tower Grove Park
4255 Arsenal Street
St. Louis
Missouri

HABS No. MO-1137-D

HABS
MO,
96-SALV,
46D-

PHOTOGRAPHS
REDUCED COPY OF MEASURED DRAWING
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D. C. 20240

HABS
MO
96-SALV,
46D-

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

HABS No. MO-1137-D

TOWER GROVE PARK SOUTH GATE
(Arsenal Street Entrance)

Location: Park headquarters at 4255 Arsenal Street, St. Louis, Missouri. The gate stands 2400' east of Kings Highway 3500' west of Grand Boulevard, being the entrance to the Park from Arsenal Street on the south.

USGS Webster Groves Quadrangle Universal Transverse Mercator Coordinates: 15.738720.276260

Present Owner: City of St. Louis

Present Use: Ornamental gateway to public driving park

Significance: This well-preserved classical entrance is representative of the more monumental style of landscape design popular in the late nineteenth century.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Date of erection: 1888 (Board Reports, 1/1/89, p.155.)
2. Architect: George I. Barnett and Son (Mss. of Board minutes, 1/1/89). For further biographical information, see the HABS report on Tower Grove Park (MO-1137).
3. Original and subsequent owners: City of St. Louis. For property description see the HABS report on Tower Grove Park (MO-1137).
4. Builder, contractor, suppliers, etc.: The stonework was done by Edward J. Stamm (Tower Grove Park Comptroller's Report 1888, p.20, 9/1/88) and J.E. Kaime's men (Comp. 1888, p.16, 7/2/88), with material supplied by J.W. Mitchell worth \$500 (Comp. 1888, p.24, 9/14/88). The iron gates and railings were supplied by Francis Guerdan of St. Louis for \$2274 (Tower Grove Park Receipts and Vouchers, 7/12/1889, 8/9/89).
5. Original plans and construction: The iron work was in the same design as that of the earlier north gate (TGP Receipts and Vouchers, 7/89-12/89, 3/9/89).

This vehicular entrance replaced the original pedestrian gates in the same location (Mss. of Board Reports, 1888-1889, passim).

6. Alterations and additions: The iron work on the south gate was removed in 1915 to accommodate automobile traffic. A standard traffic lamp was installed. (TGP Annual Report to the Board 1915, p.8).

B. Sources of Information:

- a. Old views: A view after 1890 from the south showing part of the gate is in the HABS Report on the South Gate Lodge (See HABS Photocopy in MO-1137-H).

View from N.E. showing shelter 11 (wellhouse) in the foreground and the south gate lodge behind. Location and date unknown. Photocopy in HABS possession.

East elevation of gatehouse: 8/25/1892, Box IX, Paul A. Kohl's Office Tower, Grove House, MBG, Photo in HABS possession.

View of Gate and Lodge, south elevation, from across Arsenal Street, Shelter No. 11 in the lower right: 8/25/1892, Box XI. Paul A. Kohl's Office, Tower Grove House, MBG, Photo in HABS possession.

- b. Primary and unpublished sources:

Manuscripts, etc.: Henry Shaw's Comptroller's Report Book for 1888; the Minutes of the Park Board from 1869-1898; and the Tower Grove Park Receipts and Vouchers for 1868-1889 are in the custody of Park Superintendent, Miss Bernice Gurney, and will probably be transferred from her office at 4274 Magnolia Avenue to the Shaw Manuscript Collection in the John S. Lehmann Library at the Missouri Botanical Garden, 2345 Tower Grove Avenue, St. Louis, Missouri.

Deed books. City Hall, Market Street, St. Louis, Missouri.

C. Secondary Sources:

Annual Report of the Board of Commissioners Tower Grove Park.
St. Louis: Nixon-Jones Printing, 1899-1919.

_____. St. Louis: Arcade Print Shop, 1920.

_____. St. Louis: Mound City Press, 1921-1942.

_____. St. Louis: Allied Printing, 1943-1959.

MacAdam, David H., Tower Grove Park. St. Louis: R. P. Studley and Co., 1883

Prepared by: Carolyn Hamm
Field Historian
National Park Service
St. Louis, Missouri
July, 1974

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: The south gate complements the Park north gate, being of the same limestone pier and ornamental wrought iron railing composition and scalloped shape. It lacks the more monumental and decorative features of the north gate, having been designed principally as an exit from the central cross drive into Arsenal Street.
2. Condition of fabric: Good.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Over-all dimensions: The structure is approximately 230' wide and has a scalloped shape. Two pedestrian gates, 8'-wide center to center, flank the central vehicular opening, 46'-wide, center to center. The pedestrian gate piers are 10'-high; the center and terminal piers are 17'-8" high. The railings are about 6' high.
2. Foundations: Red granite blocks.
3. Wall construction, finish, and color:
 - a. Scallop-shaped wall: The granite base has gray limestone smooth-cut coping, about 1'-4" high and it supports wrought iron fencing. The fencing has spear-point tops and a row of crossed diagonal pieces running between the vertical elements at their base.
 - b. Pedestrian gate piers: Six-foot iron gates run between square piers of stacked blocks capped with balls. The gates are similar to the iron fence, but have two added rows of circular motifs at their base. The top of the double gates curves slightly upwards from the center to the pier edges.
 - c. Terminal and vehicular gate piers: The piers consist of stacks of rectangular blocks, and the blocks at the level of the spear-heads on the fencing are vertically scored. Otherwise they are identical to the pedestrian gate piers, with ball caps, but rise to a greater height.
4. Structural system: Load-bearing masonry.

- ### C. Site:
- Most traffic using the south gate exits through it, coming from the north on the central cross drive, an extension of Tower Grove Avenue. The Gate lies 2400' east of Kings Highway and 3500' west of Grand Boulevard on Arsenal Street. The south gate lodge lies a few yards north of it, on the west side of the central cross Avenue.

Prepared by: Peter Dessauer
Field Historian
National Park Service
St. Louis, Missouri
August, 1975

PART III. PROJECT INFORMATION

The Tower Grove Park and Missouri Botanical Garden Project was jointly sponsored by the Historic American Buildings Survey of the National Park Service, the Board of Commissioners of Tower Grove Park, and the Board of Trustees of the Missouri Botanical Gardens.

Recorded under the direction of John Poppeliers, Chief of HABS, and Kenneth L. Anderson, HABS Principal Architect, the project was conducted during the summer of 1974 and 1975 at the Historic American Buildings Survey field office at the Missouri Botanical Garden, St. Louis.

1974 Team: Robert Harvey, Project Supervisor, (Landscape Architect); Steven Bauer, Project Foreman, (architect, University of Kansas); Carolyn Hamm, project historian, (Cornell University); Patrick Ackerman, student assistant architect, (Washington University); Suzanne Fauber, student assistant landscape architect. (University of Virginia); and Carol Macht, student assistant landscape architect, (University of Michigan).

1975 Team: Stuart Mertz, A.S.L.A., project supervisor, (landscape architect); Steven Bauer, project foreman, (Columbia University); Peter Dessauer, project historian, (Clemson University); Lennard A. Roberts, student assistant architect, (Cornell University); John R. Temmink, student assistant architect, (University of Virginia); and Theodore Torpy, landscape architect, (WASO).

The drawings were revised by HABS architect Paul Dolinsky, and the written data were edited by HABS Architectural Historian Denys Peter Myers, in the HABS Washington office in 1983. The photographs were taken by HABS/HAER Photographer Jet Lowe in 1983.